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BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1960

D. J. WATKINS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.M.S., D.M.H., D.M.C., D.M.S., D.M.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

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F.T. HUNT, MB., BS., MRCS., LRCP., DPH., DIH.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

RE: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

My Chairman and Gentlemen,

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During the early part of the year a review was made of the slaughterhouse and slaughtering facilities in the District. It was concluded that the local slaughterhouse could comply with the construction regulations made under the Slaughterhouse Act, 1905. The local (Slaughtering and Distribution) Regulations were amended but I would still like to see an independent slaughter and meat unit for human consumption that be both sterilized and stored before offered for sale for animal consumption.

The Noise Abatement Act came into operation during November. Noise or vibration which is a nuisance and not so regarded as a statutory nuisance and the appropriate action to remedy such a nuisance and not to take to a local authority. Noise has become an increasing problem over the years and this local authority previously had no powers conferred on it to deal with nuisance arising as a result of noise or vibration.

The District Office and Control of Development Act 1940 gave local rates during night and confer on local authorities effective powers for controlling caravan sites. It is the intention of this Act to improve caravan sites and control the establishment of new sites. At the same time it will be possible to raise the standard and

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BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1960.

The estimated population has fallen by 10 to 2,450 . The birth rate was 16.7 compared with 14.3 in 1959. The death rate has fallen from 11.2 in 1959 to 9.7 .

Only 5 infectious diseases were notified during the year. Respiratory infections were very prevalent during January whilst children and young adults suffered from streptococcal throat infections during June. Anthrax was made a notifiable disease towards the end of the year and steps have been taken to ensure early diagnosis and control of this disease.

The water supply of the district was regarded as satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year. The refuse tip continues to serve a very useful purpose although occasional nuisances arose at this tip during the summer months.

Fluctuating analyses of the sewage effluent caused some concern at the sewage works during the first part of the year. Fortunately the cause for this has now been discovered and the final sewage effluent can now be regarded as satisfactory.

During the early part of the year a review was made of the slaughterhouses and slaughtering facilities in the District. It was considered that the local slaughterhouses could comply with the construction regulations made under the Slaughterhouses Act 1958. The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations were welcomed but I would still like to see an arrangement whereby all meat unfit for human consumption must be both sterilised and stained before offered for sale for animal consumption.

The Noise Abatement Act came into operation during November. Noise or vibration which is a nuisance can now be regarded as a statutory nuisance and the appropriate action to remedy such a nuisance can now be taken by a local authority. Noise has become an increasing problem over the years and this local authority previously had no general powers conferred on it to deal with nuisance arising as a result of noise or vibration.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 came into force during August and confers on local authorities effective means for controlling caravan sites. It is the intention of this Act to improve caravan sites and control the establishment of new sites. At the same time it will be possible to raise the aesthetic and

BUCKINGHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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sanitary conditions on such sites.

Visits were made to food premises in the area during the early part of the year to advise on matters relating to food hygiene. Conditions at these premises were generally found to be satisfactory.

More houses in the district could be improved if owners made use of the housing improvement grants. In general it would seem that applications for such grants are made only by owner occupiers. With regard to unfit houses I think it most desirable that a decision as to their ultimate fate should be made as quickly as possible. At the end of the year no decision had been made on a clearance area which was represented to the Council as long ago as 1958. In my opinion such a long delay is undesirable.

During the year I have made reports to the Public Health Committee on such items as medical radiological hazards, strontium 90 and the general incidence of infectious diseases. Comments have been made on vaccination against influenza, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis, whilst routine reports were made on such matters as unfit housing, food hygiene and infectious diseases.

I should like to end this report by thanking the members of the staff of the District Council for their help and co-operation throughout the year, particularly to Mr Allen in his dual capacity as Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

I am,

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Your Obedient Servant,

F.T. Hunt
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Medical Officer of Health.

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I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

.....
F. T. Hunt.

Medical Officer of Health.

BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Councillor R.T. Willcocks.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor E.L. Carne, JP.,

and

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F.T. HUNT, MB., BS., MRCS., LRCP., DPH., DIH.,

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G.T. ALLEN, MRSH.,

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices,
Harewood,
BUCKFASTLEIGH.

Tel. Buckfastleigh 2133

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT

Medical Department,
Municipal Offices,
Fore Street,
TOTNES.

Tel. Totnes 2335.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S CLERK

Miss W. Taylor.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
JANUARY 1950

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
AND THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE
FOLLOWING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT
COPY OF THE REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
FOR THE YEAR 1949-1950

AND THAT THE SAME HAS BEEN
RECEIVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
ON JANUARY 19, 1950

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
JANUARY 19, 1950

SECTION A.

General Statistics

1.

Area	1,365 acres
Number of dwelling houses	885
Dwellings owned by the Council	309
Council dwellings per thousand of population	125.6
Rateable value (1st April 1960)	£37,989
Estimated product of ld. rate	£154

2.

Vital Statistics

Estimated mid year population	2,450
Population at 1951 census	2,592

Births

Live births (Males 17, Females 15)	32
Live birth rate per thousand population	13.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	NIL
Still births	3
Still birth rate per thousand population	1.2
Still birth rate per thousand total live and still births .	85.7
Total live and still births	35
Crude birth rate per thousand population	14.3
Corrected Birth Rate per thousand population	16.7

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	NIL
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .	NIL
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	NIL
Neo-natal mortality rate	NIL
Early neo-natal mortality rate	NIL
Perinatal mortality rate	85.7

Deaths of children under the age of one year are classified as infant deaths. The neo-natal mortality rate indicates the number of infants dying within the first four weeks of birth per 1,000 total live births, whilst the early neo-natal mortality rate considers infants dying within the first week of birth. The perinatal mortality rate indicates the number of still births and infant deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including Abortion)

Number of deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	NIL

DEATHS

Total deaths (Males ¹¹Females ²⁰)	31
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	12.6
Corrected rate per 1,000 population	9.7

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	-	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	4	5
Coronary disease, angina	1	1	2
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	2	6	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	-	3
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	1	-	1
Homicide	-	1	1
	11	20	31

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals

The Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital is situated in Ashburton under the management of the Torquay and District Hospital Management Committee. It is a general practitioner hospital with 15 mixed medical and surgical beds.

Hospital coverage for the district is also provided by Newton Abbot Hospital and Torbay Hospital. Maternity cases are admitted to Broomborough Hospital, Totnes.

2. County Council Health Services

Under the National Health Service Act 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

- a) Domiciliary midwives.
- b) Home nurses.
- c) Health Visitors.
- d) Services for the care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five.
- e) Ambulance services.
- f) Vaccination and immunisation procedures.
- g) Domestic help services (home helps)
- h) Arrangements for the prevention of illness, the care of persons suffering from illness or mental disorder and the after care of such persons.

A district nurse/midwife works in the district and there is one Health Visitor available. A child welfare clinic is held every fortnight in Buckfastleigh and the home help service is organised by the County Council with the Health Visitor acting as the local organiser. The ambulance service is operated by voluntary organisations, and ambulances are available at all times to convey people who are physically or mentally ill to hospitals, clinics, etc.,

3. Laboratory Services

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out by either the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter, or the Public Health Laboratory Service at Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water and other samples is undertaken by Public Analysts in Exeter.

4. Tuberculin Testing Scheme (School Children)

All children attending County Primary Schools in the District now receive, as part of the general supervision of their health, a special tuberculin skin test each year. This test may indicate if the child is suffering from, or has suffered from tuberculosis. Such children are referred for further examination and, by this means, the early onset of tuberculosis can be detected in the child or in the child's family.

The scheme has, as its main object, the detection of previously unsuspected cases of tuberculosis. The examination of the child gives the lead for tracing the source of the infection in the community.

5. Removal of Old and Infirm Persons to Institutions

Under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Council may apply to a court for an order to remove to a suitable institution any person who

- a) Are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and
- b) Are unable to attend to themselves and are not receiving from other persons thorough care and attention.

The National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, amended Section 47 of the 1948 Act, and enabled application for removal of urgent cases to be made by the local authority or by the Medical Officer of Health, if authorised by the Council to do so, without giving 7 days notice as previously required.

Such application may be made either to a court of "summary jurisdiction", or to a single Justice, on a certificate by the Medical Officer of Health and another registered medical practitioner.

Detention orders made in respect of these urgent cases are limited to three weeks, and if it is necessary to extend this time, compliance must be made with the original requirements of Section 47.

During the year it was not found necessary to resort to Section 47 procedure.

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year. It is a summary of the work done and a statement of the results achieved. It is a statement of the work done and a statement of the results achieved.

2. The second part of the report deals with the details of the work done. It is a statement of the work done and a statement of the results achieved. It is a statement of the work done and a statement of the results achieved.

3. The third part of the report deals with the financial statement. It is a statement of the work done and a statement of the results achieved. It is a statement of the work done and a statement of the results achieved.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the conclusions. It is a statement of the work done and a statement of the results achieved. It is a statement of the work done and a statement of the results achieved.

5. The fifth part of the report deals with the recommendations. It is a statement of the work done and a statement of the results achieved. It is a statement of the work done and a statement of the results achieved.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Notifiable Diseases

The following diseases were notified during the year.

Scarlet FeverOne case (a girl of 11 years)
Sonne DysenteryOne case (a boy of 10 years)
Pulmonary tuberculosisOne case (a man of 72 years)
MeaslesTwo cases(a girl of 5 years and
a boy of 10 years)

2. Outbreaks of other diseases

There are a number of infectious diseases which are not notifiable diseases and are therefore not referred to the Medical Officer of Health. A knowledge of the incidence of such diseases in the community is often only acquired when they become widespread and extensive.

Respiratory infections were prevalent during January and many pre-school age and young school children were affected. During June many children and adults suffered from sore throats caused by streptococcal organisms.

3. Immunisation and Vaccination

Vaccination and immunisation is available to give protection against such diseases as smallpox, poliomyelitis, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus and tuberculosis. These procedures can be carried out by local medical practitioners and also, under the Devon County Council scheme, sessions are carried out at local schools and the local Infant Welfare Clinic.

4. New Notifiable Diseases

The Public Health (Infectious Disease) Amendment Regulations 1960 came into force on December 1st 1960 and provided for the notification by medical practitioners to Medical Officers of Health of all cases of anthrax.

Anthrax is an acute bacterial infection of animals and man. In man it is usually a disease of the skin but can also affect the lungs and gastro intestinal tract. It is primarily an occupational hazard of agricultural workers handling infected animals and of industrial workers handling hair and

wool. Fortunately it occurs only infrequently in England and Wales when the source of infection is generally the tissues of animals dying of the disease or the contaminated hair, hides and soil associated with the infected animal.

Anthrax has not previously been a notifiable disease under the Public Health Acts but medical practitioners have been required, under the 1937 Factories Act, to notify the Chief Inspector of Factories of cases of anthrax contacted in any factory.

By the Anthrax Order 1938 the Medical Officer of Health must be notified by the inspector under the Diseases of Animals Act if a case of anthrax in an animal arises in his district. These notifications are made so that advice can be given on the question of disinfection.

The notification of anthrax will probably result in cases being identified, diagnosed and treated more rapidly. In addition the Medical Officer of Health will now be empowered to investigate the source of the infection and to take any necessary action in cases occurring outside the scope of the Factories Acts, where, until now, no one has had this responsibility. Steps are already being taken to improve the arrangements for early diagnosis and treatment of suspected cases of anthrax.

5. Civil Defence (Diseases) Regulations, 1960

These regulations came into force in April and place on local authorities, when required by the Minister of Health, the duty to make plans for the prevention and control of disease, or spread of disease in circumstances arising out of hostile action or the threat of hostile action. In addition, local authorities may be required to train the members of their staff in duties relating to the prevention or spread of such disease.

These regulations arise under the Civil Defence Act, 1948 and, until their introduction, no duties had been imposed on local authorities for dealing with disease in an emergency or for training staff for this situation.

6. Authentication of International Certificates

In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases several countries require that visitors should be vaccinated or inoculated against specified diseases. International certificates have now been prescribed for smallpox, yellow fever, and cholera.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

1. Water

Upland surface water is collected on Dartmoor and reaches the district by gravity from a large storage reservoir. The water is chlorinated and hardened by passing over soda ash as the raw water is plumbo solvent. The water supply for the area was found to be satisfactory both in quantity and quality, and no form of contamination occurred during the year.

The number of dwelling houses receiving a supply direct from the public mains to the houses was 868 . A total of 10 dwellings were supplied from the public mains by means of stand pipes, whilst 7 dwellings had their own private water supply.

2. Refuse Collection and Disposal

There is a weekly refuse collection and waste paper is collected every two weeks. The tip is a disused quarry situated well away from the town.

During July and August there were complaints about smells, smoke and flies at this tip. Whilst every means are taken to cover the refuse deposited at this tip, it must be realised that, unless fully controlled tipping is carried out, these nuisances will occasionally continue to arise. It is unfortunate that a system of controlled tipping would prove more costly than the existing system of crude tipping.

3. Sewage Disposal

Continuing fluctuating analyses of the sewage effluent during the year caused some concern. Eventually it was discovered that the fat content in the trade effluent reaching the sewage works from one of the trade premises in the town was much higher than was hitherto imagined. Measures have now been taken to reduce this fat content to a more satisfactory level before the trade effluent enters the sewage works.

It is considered that the sewerage system and sewage works are adequate for the needs of Buckfastleigh.

4. Factories

This local authority is responsible for enforcing the

provisions in the Factories Act 1937 relating to sanitary conveniences and the regulations made in connection with these in all factories. The District Council is also responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Act dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in all factories not using mechanical power.

Visits were made to the factories in the area by the Public Health Inspector. 24 of the 26 factories in Buckfastleigh do not use mechanical power.

Part 8 of the Factories Act 1937 deals with home work and the provisions relating to this are enforced by the District Council. No lists of outworkers were received by the Council during the year.

Conditions at all the factories were found to be satisfactory.

5. Slaughterhouses

Visits were made to the slaughterhouses in connection with the construction regulations, defined in the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958, which are due to come into force in the future.

In May a review was made of the existing and future requirements of the district with regard to the slaughterhouse facilities in Buckfastleigh. The following facts were ascertained;

1. The two licensed slaughterhouses would adequately meet the present and future demands of the district.
2. While these slaughterhouses did not yet comply with the Construction Regulations, (defined in the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, nevertheless it was considered that the slaughterhouses would comply with all the construction requirements by March 1st 1961.

	Steers & heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
No killed	179	-	6	450	11
No inspected	179	-	6	411	11
What carcasses condemned due to disease	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned due to disease	1	-	-	-	-

6. Pest and Rodent Control

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, this local authority has an obligation to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the area is kept free from rats or mice. For this purpose frequent inspections are necessary and, in addition, occupiers of land are required to give notice to the local authority whenever it comes to their knowledge that rats or mice are present on the land in substantial numbers. In the case of food premises, the notification must be made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Under the Act the local authority may serve on the owner or occupier of any land, notice requiring him to take steps for the destruction of rats or mice on the land and may also require the carrying out of any structural repairs or any other works. If such a notice is not complied with, then the local authority may carry out the destruction of the pests and recover the necessary expense from the persons concerned.

A rodent operator works on a part-time basis for this authority and regular treatment is carried out on the refuse tips. Test baiting is carried out in the sewerage system, and the operator visits private and business premises in order to destroy pests. No charge is made by the local authority for services carried out at private dwelling houses. This concession is of considerable value as it ensures that householders are not deterred in reporting the presence of pests on account of the financial sum which would be involved in treating their premises.

7. Noise

The Noise Abatement Act came into operation on the 27th November. Noise or vibration which is a nuisance can now be regarded as a statutory nuisance for the provisions of Part 3 of the 1936 Public Health Act. Noise has become an increasing problem over the years and, until the introduction of this Act, a local authority had no general powers conferred on it to deal with nuisance arising as a result of noise or vibration.

8. Offices Act 1960

This Act was introduced during the year and comes into force on January 1st 1962. Under the Act regulations can be made for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in offices. Apart from a few exceptions it will be the duty of the local authority to enforce this act and the regulations made under it.

It is anticipated that regulations will be made relating to sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences, the provision of adequate and suitable washing facilities, the prevention of overcrowding, the provision of sufficient and suitable lighting, the provision of a standard and reasonable temperature, the provision of adequate ventilation and measures to ensure that all offices shall be kept clean.

9. Caravans

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 came into force on the 29th August, and conferred on local authorities effective powers for controlling caravan sites. In addition to strengthening the powers of planning authorities it introduced a new licensing system which will be administered by County Borough and County District Councils.

In future, caravan sites will require to be licensed. From the public health aspect, local licensing authorities will obviously be concerned with requirements in the licenses relating to such items as water supply, refuse disposal, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, drainage and sewage disposal. Other licence requirements, indirectly affecting the health of the inhabitants on the caravan sites, could relate to the control and maintenance of the caravans, the minimum distance between caravans, the spacing and arrangement of the dwellings and recreational space.

There were two licensed caravan sites in the district during 1960, and one of them was owned by the Council. Conditions at these sites were regarded as satisfactory throughout the year.

10. Swimming Pool

The swimming pool has a capacity of 59,100 gallons. The water is obtained from an upland surface source on Dartmoor and enters the pool unheated. The water is chlorinated daily by hand and is changed at least once a week. Estimates of the residual chlorine content were found to be satisfactory throughout the year.

11. Visits and Inspections during the Year

Visits to dwelling houses	65
Visits to food premises	40
Visits to slaughterhouses	127
Visits to factories	26
Visits to caravan sites	26
Drainage inspections	33
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	53

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Food Premises

There were 41 food premises operating in the area. This number was made up of 15 cafes, hotels and restaurants, together with 26 retail food shops. One or more visits were made to the majority of these premises throughout the year.

2. Food Hygiene

The requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations had already been emphasised during 1959 and the standard of hygiene practised at these premises were generally satisfactory.

3. Unsound Food

The amount of unsound food surrendered or condemned was as follows:-

40 lbs of tinned meat.

At the local slaughterhouses the following meat was condemned or surrendered

Part of the carcase of one heifer.

4. Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

These regulations were introduced during the year and it is the purpose of the regulations to ensure that milk is produced, bottled and distributed under such conditions that it reaches the public in a clean and safe state. Conditions have been laid down under which specially designated milk (tuberculin tested, pasteurized and sterilised) may be sold.

5. The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960

These regulations came into force on November 1st 1960. All meat which is unfit for human consumption at slaughterhouses must now be sterilised before it leaves the premises. If there are no facilities for sterilising at the slaughterhouses, provision could be made for the meat to be removed to a place where it will be sterilised or destroyed. In the case of knacker's yards, all meat must be stained or sterilised

before it leaves the premises. In a similar manner imported meat unfit for human consumption must be sterilised as soon as possible after it has entered the country.

It should now no longer be possible for retailers of pet's meat to obtain unfit meat unless it has been sterilised or stained. If any meat comes into their possession which has not been sterilised or stained, then it is the retailer's responsibility to sterilise it before sale.

The regulations are framed so that hospitals, manufacturing chemists, veterinary schools and similar institutions can continue to obtain supplies of unstained or unsterilised meat without restriction.

It will be recalled that similar regulations were due to come into force on the 1st April 1959 but were repealed in the previous month. These new regulations have been designed on similar lines and will reduce, to some extent the likelihood of disease being spread to humans from animals who consume unfit meat. I think it would have been more satisfactory however if meat unfit for human consumption was required to be first sterilised and then stained before leaving slaughterhouses. Such meat could then be removed, identified and checked.

6. Food Hygiene(General)Regulations, 1960

These regulations came into force on October 1st 1960 and they consolidate the previous regulations of 1955 and 1957, with a number of amendments, none affecting their main substance.

7. Authorised Officers (Meat Inspection) Regulations, 1960

These regulations prescribe a new qualification, the holder of which will be eligible to be appointed by a local authority as an authorised officer to act in relation to the examination and seizure of meat. The primary reason for creating this new class of officer, a meat inspector, is to help overcome the difficulty which is being experienced by local authorities in obtaining public health inspectors to carry out complete meat inspection in their areas. Meat inspection at slaughterhouses can occupy a considerable amount of time, often at the expense of the other duties carried out by the public health inspector.

The regulations do not themselves confer any powers on holders of the new qualifications. It will be entirely for the local authorities who employ them to decide whether to appoint the meat inspectors and authorised officers under the act, and it is envisaged that holders of this new qualification will generally be employed in large slaughterhouses and bacon factories.

SECTION F.

HOUSING

1. General Information

Total number of dwelling houses in district	885
Total number of dwellings owned by the Council	309
Total number of visits made to dwelling houses	65

2. Improvement of Houses

It is still evident that more houses could be improved if owners made more use of the standard and discretionary improvement grants.

Formal action by the local authority was considered in respect of six houses during the year.

Three houses were made fit following informal action and in other houses statutory public health nuisances were remedied following informal approaches to the owners of these dwellings.

No clearance areas were declared during the year. At the end of 1960 a decision was still awaited on a clearance area represented to the Council by my predecessor in 1958. A public inquiry relating to this clearance area was held in 1959.

When houses are represented to a local authority as being unfit for human habitation, no matter whether they are represented in a clearance area or as individual unfit houses, I think it absolutely essential that a decision should be made as to their future as quickly as possible. Owners of such houses are naturally reluctant to repair or maintain them when ever there is a possibility that they will have to be closed or demolished. Similarly, tenants in such houses become anxious as to their future and are also reluctant to carry out internal decorations. Very often the conditions in the houses prove most distressing to the tenants during this time. I find no satisfaction whatever in representing unfit houses to a local authority, describing the unsatisfactory conditions which might adversely affect the health of the occupants and then finding that the houses remain in their existing condition for months, and even years, before a definite decision is made as to their future.

APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1960 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT
OF BUCKFASTLEIGH IN THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on register (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	24	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	2	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	26	26	-	-

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- 17 -
- 17 -

APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1960 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT
OF BUCKINGHAM IN THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	17	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	2	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	26	26	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Reasonable temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary convenience (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the ACT (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART 8 OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

There were no outworkers in the District, and there is thus a
"NIL" RETURN.

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(1)	Number of cases in which defects were found	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp.	
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Want of cleanliness (2.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (2.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Reasonable temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (2.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (2.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary convenience (a) Insufficient (b) Unsanitary or defective (c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the ACT (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART 3 OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

There were no outworkers in the District, and there is thus a "NIL" RETURN.